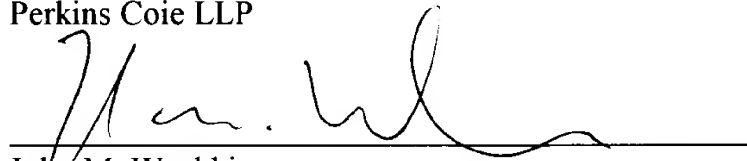


REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment, claim 37 has been amended without narrowing the scope of the claim and for reasons unrelated to patentability. Claims 17-44 are pending. Please consider the pending claims in light of the foregoing amendment. If the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspects of the pending claims, he is encouraged to contact John M. Wechkin by telephone to expediently handle such matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

Form PTO-1083 (+ copy)

Appendix (Marked-up version of claims)

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Appendix – Claims
Marked to Show Changes

37. (Amended) A method for processing a microelectronic workpiece, comprising:

providing a vessel having a first electrode and a diffusion plate member;

coupling a second electrode to the microelectronic workpiece;

disposing the microelectronic workpiece in ~~a~~ the vessel with the diffusion plate member between the first electrode and the microelectronic workpiece;

~~positioning a first electrode proximate to the microelectronic workpiece;~~

~~coupling a second electrode to the microelectronic workpiece;~~

~~disposing a diffusion plate member between the first electrode and the microelectronic workpiece;~~

directing a flow of processing fluid toward the microelectronic workpiece through a plurality of openings in the diffusion plate member, the openings being arranged along a spiral path; and

rotating at least one of the diffusion plate member and the microelectronic workpiece relative to the other while directing the flow of processing fluid through the openings in the diffusion plate member.